

Senate Resolution 42

By: Senator Pearson of the 51st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Anthony "Tony" Schopp; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Anthony "Tony" Schopp served in the hotel industry for over 20 years as
3 the head of field sales for both Hyatt Hotels and Resorts and Westin Hotels and Resorts in
4 Washington, D.C.; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Schopp has also served as executive vice president of the Machinery
6 Dealers National Association, an international group of small businesses in the machine tool
7 industry; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1998, after moving to Savannah, Georgia, with his wife, Georgeanne, Mr.
9 Schopp presided as president and CEO of the Savannah Convention and Visitors Bureau
10 until 2006; and

11 WHEREAS, during his time as president and CEO of the Savannah Convention and Visitors
12 Bureau, the revenue to Savannah based on tourist dollars increased more than 200% from
13 \$958 million in 1998 to \$1.941 billion in 2006; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Schopp's strategy for increasing tourism in Savannah was to focus
15 marketing on attracting overnight visitors and concentrate efforts on expanding the business
16 side of tourism in the city; and

17 WHEREAS, he has played leadership roles in many tourism focused organizations, including
18 the Savannah Film Commission, Savannah Music Festival, Georgia Department of
19 Community Affairs Hotel Motel Tax Performance Review Board, Southeast Tourism Policy
20 Council of the United States Department of the Interior, and the Executive Association of
21 Savannah; and

22 WHEREAS, in April, 2002, Mr. Schoop established the Tourism Development Alliance of
23 Georgia, which began as a small group of tourism industry professionals from around this
24 state who gathered to establish a unified strategic effort to further tourism in Georgia; and

25 WHEREAS, as chairman of the Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia, Mr. Schoop led
26 efforts to establish funding for the group's first summit, which was ultimately held on
27 November 10, 2002; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Schopp's hard work, dedication, and vision was instrumental in the
29 establishment of the Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia, and the success achieved
30 by this organization are a direct result of the solid foundation he established.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 join in commending the achievements of Mr. Anthony Schopp and recognizing his foresight
33 and resolution in founding the Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Anthony Schopp.